

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-15 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9656

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UNCLAS CAIRO 1246

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION (EAFA)

REF: 75 CAIRO 10561

1. DR. MAHMOUD RIAD, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ARAB TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (AND FORMER GOE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS), CALLED ON AMBASSADOR JAN 28 IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF RECENTLY FORMED EAFA. HE DESCRIBED PURPOSE OF ASSOCIATION AS FOSTERING FRIENDLY SOCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES THROUGH EXCHANGES OF VISITS, LECTURERS, ETC. HE STATED THAT THERE ARE ALREADY OVER SIXTY EGYPTIAN MEMBERS, PRIMARILY PROFESSIONAL PERSONS, AND THAT THE ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN REGISTERED WITH MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS.

2. HE THEN DESCRIBED HIS PROBLEMS. FORM LETTERS HE HAS SENT TO RESIDENT AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS INVITING THEM TO JOIN EAFA HAVE ELICITED NO RESPONSE. HE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND OFFICE SPACE AND HAS NO PLACE FOR THE GROUP TO MEET.

3. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT LACK OF AMERICAN BUSINESS RESPONSE PROBABLY RESULTS IN PART FROM THE FACT THAT THE ADMISSION FEE OF \$150 AND THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE OF \$100 WERE MUCH TOO HIGH, PARTICULARLY AS THE SOLICITATION DID NOT INDICATED ANY SPECIFIC PROGRAM OR BENEFITS WHICH WOULD ATTRACT MEMBERS. THE UNCLASSIFIED

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AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT A BETTER APPROACH MIGHT BE FOR HIM

TO WRITE TO THE HEADS OF THE AMERICAN FIRMS REQUESTING THEIR ADVICE ON THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF FEES AND THE PROPOSED PROGRAM OF THE ORGANIZATION. DR. RIAD AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE VERY USEFUL AND SAID THAT HE WILL PREPARE DRAFT OF PROGRAM TO BE SENT WITH THE LETTER.

4. THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED DR. RIAD THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD BE PLEASED TO COOPERATE WITH THE ORGANIZATION IN ANY WAY IT COULD. HE NOTED USIS/CAIRO WILL BE PLEASED TO ASSIST RIAD IN DEVELOPING SOME PROGRAMS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO EGYPTIAN MEMBERS.
EILTS

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